



**Rochester  
Public Library**

**More Than You Think**

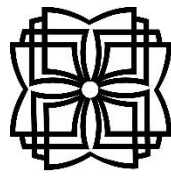
115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

**Rochester Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting  
Kusler-Cox Auditorium, Rundel Memorial Building, Central Library  
April 22, 9:00 a.m.  
Agenda**

- I. PUBLIC COMMENTS** Brenner
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Brenner page 3
- III. PERSONNEL CHANGES** Scott page 7
- IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS** Hasselwander page 9
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Action Items)**  
None
- VI. NEW BUSINESS (Action Items)**
  - 1. Officer Election, Secretary Cooper page 13
  - 2. Extending Hours at Douglass Community Library on  
May 7, 2026 Scanlon page 13
  - 3. Pomeroy Foundation Grant Hasselwander page 13
- VII. REPORTS & DISCUSSION**
  - 1. Liaison Reports
    - a. From the MCLS Board Brandt
    - b. From the Friends & Foundation of RPL Borgus
  - 2. Staff Reports
    - a. Director’s Report Clasper
    - b. Central Library Assoc. Director Lehman
    - c. Community Libraries Deputy Director Scanlon
  - 3. Other Reports or Discussion
- VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
  - 1. To discuss the employment history of a particular person
- X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Meeting  
May 27, 2026  
Rundel Memorial Building, Central Library**





# Rochester Public Library

More Than You Think

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

## Meeting of the RPL Board of Trustees Central Library, Rundel Memorial Building March 25, 2026 Minutes

**RPL Trustees Present:** Donna Benjamin, Marcus Cooper, Matt McDermott (VP), Sarah Murphy Abbamonte (Secretary), Jeffrey Tucker, Mark Wyand (Treasurer) (quorum present)

**RPL Trustees Excused:** Gary Brandt (MCLS Liaison), Ellen Brenner (President), James Kraus, Sharon Salluzzo (Reynolds Liaison)

**Staff and Guests:** City Council Liaison Mitch Gruber; City Law Department Liaison Allison Bartlett; FFRPL Liaison Donna Borgus; staff members, Emily Clasper, Katy Hasselwander, Sarah Lehman, Debi Mansour, BJ Scanlon, Geraldine Scott

Vice President McDermott called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No members of the public were present who wished to address the board.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the February 2026 meeting were approved as presented.

### **PERSONNEL CHANGES**

Personnel Manager Scott called attention to the personnel changes and staffing levels for February 14, 2026–March 6, 2026, and offered to answer questions. Trustee Benjamin MADE A MOTION to approve the personnel changes. Trustee Cooper seconded. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Library Finance Manager Hasselwander reviewed the financial reports with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Trustee Murphy Abbamonte MADE A MOTION to approve the monthly financial reports as presented and approved by the RPL Finance Committee. Trustee Wyand seconded. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Nominating Committee Recommendations**

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Trustee Cooper presented the recommended new trustee appointments and offered to answer questions. Trustee Wyand MADE A MOTION to appoint Jessica Williams to

complete the unexpired term of Elizabeth Call, effective immediately, with a term ending date of December 31, 2029. Trustee Cooper seconded. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Benjamin MADE A MOTION to appoint Jean-Paul Scott to complete the unexpired term of Sarah Murphy Abbamonte, effective May 2, 2026, with a term ending date of December 31, 2028. Trustee Cooper seconded. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**FFRPL Grant For Circulating Materials**

Director Clasper reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Trustee Benjamin MADE A MOTION to accept the 2026 FFRPL Grant for Circulating Materials allocation of \$117,258.24. Trustee Tucker seconded. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Central Library Evening Event Late Closing**

Director Clasper reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Trustee Benjamin MADE AN AMENDED MOTION to keep the first floor of the Central Library’s Rundel Building open an additional three hours until 8 PM on June 5 to accommodate the opening of an exhibit in the Mascioli Gallery commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution subject to a pending security review. Trustee Cooper seconded. After discussion, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Closure of Frederick Douglass Community Library on April 3, 2026**

Deputy Director Scanlon reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Trustee Benjamin MADE A MOTION to close the Frederick Douglass Community Library on Friday, April 3, 2026, to accommodate an RG&E transformer replacement. Trustee Murphy Abbamonte seconded. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**DASNY Grant**

Finance Manager Hasselwander reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Trustee Cooper MADE A MOTION to accept DASNY funds of \$100,000 to purchase technology equipment for the Branch libraries. Trustee Benjamin seconded. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Pomeroy Foundation Grant**

Finance Manager Hasselwander reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Trustee Murphy Abbamonte MADE A MOTION to accept a Pomeroy Foundation grant in the amount of \$2,478.29 to purchase a historical transportation marker for the Feeder Canal in the City of Rochester. Trustee Benjamin seconded. After discussion, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Love Your Library Grant Agreement**

Finance Manager Hasselwander reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Trustee Wyand MADE A MOTION to approve an agreement with Monroe County Library System for the administration of the Love Your Library grant program. Trustee Cooper seconded. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

**Liaison from the Friends & Foundation of RPL (FFRPL)**

Executive Director Borgus reported that Books Sandwiched In programs were going well, with recordings available on the FFRPL website, and announced the next review: *Mother Emanuel* by Kevin Sack, to be presented by Reverend Myra Brown of Spiritus Christi.

### **Director’s Report**

Director Clasper reported that the New York State Board of Regents was expected to vote that day on revisions to the minimum standards for public libraries. She explained that the changes were largely administrative and centered on policy wording and placement, giving added weight to certain required policies. She noted that the direct impact on RPL would be limited because many of the required policies already existed, but that several would need updating and all relevant policies would need to be properly posted for the public.

Clasper highlighted that a key element of the revisions was the requirement for a collection development policy, including reconsideration procedures and explicit acknowledgment of diverse viewpoints, which she characterized as an important defensive tool against book bans. She added that the State Library was recommending (but not requiring) language addressing AI-generated materials in collection policies, and she advised that RPL should incorporate such language because these materials were already appearing in vendor offerings.

She further explained that, in her dual role with MCLS, RPL’s policy updates would serve as a model to help town libraries across the system meet the same standards. She anticipated a comprehensive policy review process over the coming months and indicated that the board’s policy committee would need to reconvene to undertake this work.

In addition, Clasper reported that she would attend the Public Library Association (PLA) Conference in Minneapolis, describing it as a valuable biennial, public-library-focused professional event. She also announced that the newly renovated Maplewood Community Library would quietly open to the public on April 6, with a formal grand opening in May once operations and landscaping were fully in place. Finally, she noted that National Library Week (April 19–25) would feature multiple events and advocacy activities, some of which she had listed in the important dates section of her written report.

### **Central Library Report**

Associate Director Lehman reported that National Library Week programming would run throughout the week, highlighting Central library collections, divisions, and staff work. She noted that on Friday, April 24 at 8:00 a.m. the library would host a legislative breakfast, with invitations to be sent soon, and that later that same day there would be a screening of *Librarians* in the Kate Gleason Auditorium in partnership with WXXI, with registration available on the WXXI website.

Lehman further reported that on Monday, March 30, RocPaint would begin work on a new mural in the lower-level Link. The mural would feature five authors (primarily in the sci-fi/fantasy genre), including Octavia Butler, plus quotes and the City of Rochester symbol. She explained that the design was informed by a staff and patron survey, which found that people most strongly associated the library with being “creative, safe, free, and productive.” She emphasized that the featured authors represent voices not traditionally highlighted in the genre and that the design reflects the library’s values.

### **Community Libraries Report**

Deputy Director Scanlon reported that PurpleAir air-quality sensors had been installed at the Arnett and Lincoln branches, with additional installations planned at Lyle and Wheatley.

He updated the board that the Phillis Wheatley Community Library roof repair equipment had arrived, and work was scheduled to begin the week of April 13, requiring branch closures on April 15 and April 29 for crane operations; staff would remain in the building those days to work on shelving and storage projects.

Scanlon noted that RPL and FFRPL co-submitted a Joseph Rippy grant request for \$44,000 to supplement programming and included \$3,000 for staff training. He further reported that branch staff days were being organized with a comprehensive report to follow once finalized; that he had joined the ArtsBloom review panel to evaluate city arts grant applications; and that RPL was working with Brockport and the city Department of Human Resources to bring social work interns into branches. There is currently one at the Lincoln branch, with a plan to seek three placements next year at Lincoln, Charlotte, and Central.

Finally, he announced plans to provide Heartsaver AED training for RPL staff in partnership with Rochester Regional Health and the Rochester Fire Department, and he praised the work of City HR’s new health and safety coordinator, Marinna Parrish, for significantly improving safety walkthroughs and securing AED units for all branches.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice President McDermott asked that trustees consider volunteering to be the Liaison to the MCLS Board. The MCLS board meets on the third Monday of each month at 5:00. He also noted that the Board will need to elect a new Secretary; and he reminded everyone that the next meeting will be on April 22.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10.01 a.m.

*Sarah Murphy Abbamonte, Secretary*

**NEW HIRES**

<b>Carballo, Javier</b>	Building Maintenance Helper/PT/Lincoln	03/16/26
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**TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT**

<b>Black, Anna</b>	From: Clerk Typist/PT/Children’s Center	
	TO: Clerk III/Typing/PT/Temp./Children’s Center	03/23/26-06/30/26

<b>Tomaszewski, Joshua</b>	From: Librarian/PT/Technology Center	
	TO: Librarian/FT/Technology Center	03/23/26-06/23/26

**RESIGNATION**

<b>Alvarado Marte, Fernando</b>	Cleaner/PT/Wheatley	04/04/26
<b>Carballo, Javier</b>	Building Maintenance Helper/PT/Lincoln	04/07/26
<b>Carbone, Lisa</b>	Library Page/PT/Circulation	03/09/26
<b>Hamm, Diamond</b>	Library Assistant/PT/Teen	03/14/26

**STAFFING**

<b>Full-Time Positions</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Community</b>
Budgeted	82	30
Filled	78	30
Vacancies	4	0

<b>Part-time Positions</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Community</b>
Budgeted	106	136
Filled	73	107
Vacancies	33	22



## CENTRAL FINANCIAL REPORT, MARCH 2026

### *SALARY & BENEFITS*

Salaries, wages, and overtime are projected within budget.

### *EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES*

Materials expenses within budget (\$36,319). LAS expenses include Adobe software subscriptions (\$3,655) and ReciteMe toolbar subscription (\$2,397). Equipment and supplies within budget—includes specialized paper order for Graphics (\$1,998); and maintenance supplies (\$1,915)

### *SERVICES & CHARGES*

Services & Charges expenses are within budget. Includes: utility invoices (\$43,060); fire sprinkler system inspection (\$11,340); fire alarm inspections (\$4,785); print & copy machine monthly maintenance and lease payments (\$4,916); programming expenses (\$4,716); telephone services (\$3,939); glass replacement (\$2,264); LAS website support (\$1,000); elevator inspection and maintenance (\$1,559).

### *CASH CAPITAL*

No new capital expenses.

## COMMUNITY FINANCIAL REPORT, MARCH 2026

### *SALARY & BENEFITS*

Salaries and wages are projected within budget. Overtime budget will be adjusted, as necessary.

### *EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES*

Materials expenses are within budget (\$29,084). Equipment and supplies within budget. Includes mower and snow blower replacements (\$3,127); maintenance supplies (\$1,276).

### *SERVICES & CHARGES*

Services & Charges expenses are within budget. Includes: plowing services (\$5,820); telephone services (\$3,939); print & copy machine monthly maintenance and lease payments (\$3,482); programming expenses (\$1,668); fire sprinkler system inspection (\$1,940).

### *CASH CAPITAL*

Arnett solar inverter repair (\$1,217).

Central Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2025-26						
Fiscal YTD (through March 31, 2026)						
Category	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Expenses Fiscal YTD	Remaining Balance	% of Budget
<b>Salary &amp; Benefits</b>						
	Full-Time Salaries	5,226,800	5,226,800	3,858,933	1,367,867	73.8%
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	1,664,200	1,615,200	1,077,493	537,707	66.7%
	Overtime	19,000	19,000	5,736	13,264	30.2%
	Employee Benefits	3,642,600	3,642,600	2,524,696	1,117,904	69.3%
	Employee Development	34,100	40,261	10,843	29,418	26.9%
	Other	67,200	67,200	42,324	24,876	63.0%
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>10,653,900</b>	<b>10,611,061</b>	<b>7,520,026</b>	<b>3,091,035</b>	<b>70.9%</b>
<b>Equipment &amp; Supplies</b>						
	Materials Budget	511,800	519,313	263,862	255,450	50.8%
	Other Furnishings & Equipment	10,100	10,100	1,811	8,289	17.9%
	Office Supplies	60,100	69,384	34,584	34,800	49.8%
	Other Materials & Supplies	59,800	68,487	35,963	32,524	52.5%
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>641,800</b>	<b>667,284</b>	<b>336,220</b>	<b>331,063</b>	<b>50.4%</b>
<b>Services &amp; Charges</b>						
	Utilities	467,500	517,300	396,071	121,229	76.6%
	Facility Maintenance	109,300	123,869	68,661	55,208	55.4%
	Professional Services/Fees	236,600	241,647	172,277	69,370	71.3%
	Chargebacks	89,700	88,200	26,001	62,199	29.5%
	Service Charges - Other Gov't	51,400	51,400	39,722	11,678	77.3%
	Telecommunications	14,200	18,700	11,717	6,983	62.7%
	Other Expenses	172,300	174,367	56,545	117,822	32.4%
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,141,000</b>	<b>1,215,482</b>	<b>770,994</b>	<b>444,488</b>	<b>63.4%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSED</b>		<b>12,436,700</b>	<b>12,493,827</b>	<b>8,627,240</b>	<b>3,866,587</b>	<b>69.4%</b>
<b>Central Cash Capital</b>						
	Facility Maintenance Allocation	50,000	171,850	24,499	197,352	14.3%
	Rundel Loading Dock Assessment	120,000	0	0	120,000	0.0%
	<b>Cash Capital Total</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>171,850</b>	<b>24,499</b>	<b>317,352</b>	<b>14.3%</b>
<b>REVENUE RECEIPTS</b>						
	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>11,736,100</b>	<b>11,736,100</b>	<b>4,880,121</b>	<b>6,855,979</b>	
	<b>Original Budget</b>		<b>Revised Budget</b>	<b>City Prorate Share + Revenue YTD</b>	<b>Outstanding Revenue</b>	

Community Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2025-26						
Fiscal YTD (through March 31, 2026)						
Category	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Expenses Fiscal YTD	Remaining Balance	% of Budget
<b>Salary &amp; Benefits</b>						
	Full-Time Salaries	2,157,700	2,157,700	1,540,049	617,651	71.4%
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	2,022,700	2,026,600	1,466,271	560,329	72.4%
	Overtime	2,000	2,000	3,784	-1,784	189.2%
	Employee Development	19,600	22,309	9,106	13,203	40.8%
	Other	27,400	27,400	19,194	8,206	70.0%
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4,229,400</b>	<b>4,236,009</b>	<b>3,038,404</b>	<b>1,198,399</b>	<b>71.7%</b>
<b>Equipment &amp; Supplies</b>						
	Materials Budget	536,600	564,440	268,819	295,621	47.6%
	Office Supplies	37,700	39,851	20,240	19,611	50.8%
	Other Materials & Supplies	41,200	56,519	30,493	26,026	54.0%
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>615,500</b>	<b>660,811</b>	<b>319,552</b>	<b>341,258</b>	<b>48.4%</b>
<b>Services &amp; Charges</b>						
	Utilities	229,500	234,313	176,065	58,248	75.1%
	Facility Maintenance	39,700	48,306	17,019	31,287	35.2%
	Professional Services/Fees	402,000	480,846	221,154	259,692	46.0%
	Chargebacks	26,400	26,400	10,237	16,163	38.8%
	Service Charges - Other Gov't	7,500	7,500	6,603	897	88.0%
	Telecommunications	17,100	17,206	11,042	6,163	64.2%
	Other Expenses	50,900	60,288	24,301	35,987	40.3%
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>773,300</b>	<b>875,059</b>	<b>466,422</b>	<b>408,437</b>	<b>53.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSED</b>						
		<b>5,618,200</b>	<b>5,771,878</b>	<b>3,824,378</b>	<b>1,939,094</b>	<b>66.3%</b>
<b>Community Cash Capital</b>						
		<b>FY26 Budget</b>	<b>Prior Year Carryover</b>	<b>Expenses YTD</b>	<b>Remaining Balance</b>	
	Library Furnishings	12,000	39,042	21,899	29,143	42.9%
	Library Facilities	40,000	112,133	72,301	79,832	47.5%
	Library Technology	0	108,664	86,003	22,661	79.1%
	Library Capital Projects*	0	0			
	<b>Cash Capital Total</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>259,839</b>	<b>180,203</b>	<b>131,636</b>	<b>69.4%</b>
<b>REVENUE RECEIPTS</b>						
		<b>277,000</b>	<b>323,400</b>	<b>322,138</b>	<b>1,262</b>	
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Receipts Fiscal YTD	Outstanding Revenue	

\* Projects administered by City DES

<b>Trust Funds Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2025-26</b>						
<i>Fiscal YTD (through March 31, 2026)</i>						
	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Carry-forward</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>YTD Expenses</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	
Fenevessy (Central + Branch bal)*	4224	\$81,871	\$26,256	\$60,127	\$44,734	74.4%
Gleason Fund	4225	\$16,362				
Gleason Fund (FFRPL)*	4225	\$12,572	\$15,976	\$24,910	\$11,511	46.2%
Taylor Fund	4226	\$3,723	\$13	\$3,736	\$774	20.7%
Beenev Fund (FFRPL)	4227	\$5,042	\$4,246	\$9,288	\$4,217	45.4%
Carnahan Fund	4228	\$1,604	\$818	\$2,422	\$220	9.1%
Reynolds Fund - RPL	4229	\$148,267	\$112,797	\$261,064	\$134,151	51.4%
Purton Fund	4231	\$17,543	\$11	\$17,554	\$8,566	48.8%
Boland Fund	4232	\$1,589	\$2,504	\$4,093	\$63	1.5%
Kenyon-Jeffries Fund*	4233	\$20,827	\$1,497	\$10,324	\$3,000	29.1%
Poletto Fund	4234	\$1,604	\$363	\$1,968	\$0	0.0%
Gervickas Fund	4235	\$6,236	\$7,823	\$14,059	\$4,590	32.6%
Craig Fund (FFRPL)	4236	\$2,803	\$2,642	\$5,445	\$415	7.6%
Lee Fund (FFRPL)	4237	\$1,524	\$1,365	\$2,889	\$1,278	44.2%
Vietnam Veterans Fund (FFRPL)	4238	\$701	\$1,896	\$2,597	\$128	4.9%
Holtzman Fund (FFRPL)	4239	\$1,604	\$330	\$1,934	\$774	40.0%
Tummonds Fund (FFRPL)	4241	\$103,307	\$52,168	\$155,475	\$73,618	47.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$427,180</b>	<b>\$230,704</b>	<b>\$577,884</b>	<b>\$288,038</b>	<b>49.8%</b>
<i>*Support for staffing expenses removed in total column.</i>						
<i>Fenevessy \$48,000 for literacy aides; Gleason \$20,000 for SHH staff; and Kenyon-Jeffries for LHG staff.</i>						
<b>Gift Fund Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2025-26</b>						
<i>Fiscal YTD (through March 31, 2026)</i>						
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Transfer In</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>YTD Expenses</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	
Gift Fund	4230	\$33,118	\$8,717	\$41,835	\$4,180	10.0%

NEW BUSINESS (ACTION ITEMS)

*OFFICER ELECTION, SECRETARY (COOPER)*

**Board Action Requested: A motion to elect Trustee Benjamin as the Secretary for the remainder of 2026, to replace departing Trustee Murphy Abbamonte.**

Details: The bylaws specify the Board of Trustees will elect officers from within their ranks, including a Secretary. With the departure of Sarah Murphy Abbamonte, a new Secretary is needed and Trustee Donna Benjamin has volunteered for the role.

*EXTENDING HOURS AT DOUGLASS COMMUNITY LIBRARY ON MAY 7, 2026 (SCANLON)*

**Board Action Requested: A motion to authorize the Library Director to extend hours of operation at the Frederick Douglass Community Library until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2026.**

Details: The Frederick Douglass Community Library is open until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings; the Branch Manager has requested a 2-hour extension on the night of Thursday, May 7, 2026, to allow the library to remain open coinciding with a Project Based Learning Night and Community Partner Event, called "Growing Our Future" hosted by Anna Murray Douglass Academy School No. 12, which is in the same complex as the library. Extra hours for staff will be needed.

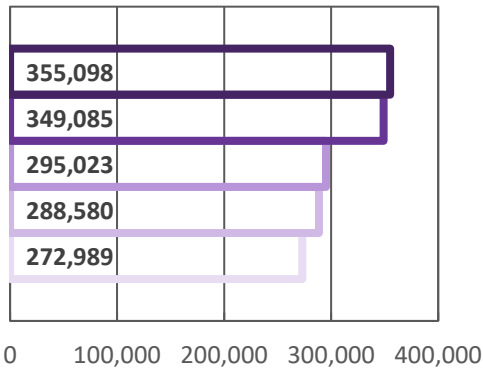
*POMEROY FOUNDATION GRANT (HASSELWANDER)*

**Board Action Requested: A motion to authorize the Library Director to accept a grant from the Pomeroy Foundation in the amount of \$2,100 to purchase a historical marker for installation on Dewey Avenue in the City of Rochester.**

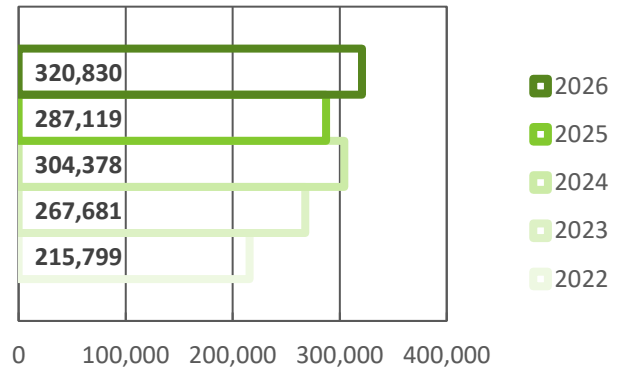
Details: The Office of the Rochester and Monroe County Historian was awarded \$2,100 by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to purchase a historical marker for the home field location of the Rochester Jeffersons on Dewey Avenue in the City of Rochester. The Rochester Jeffersons was a charter member of the National Football League. The City's Department of Environmental Services will handle the installation of the marker.

RPL AT A GLANCE (FISCAL YEAR 2026 JULY–MAR)

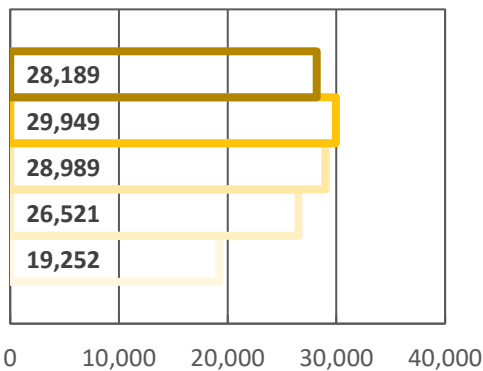
**Circulation FYTD**



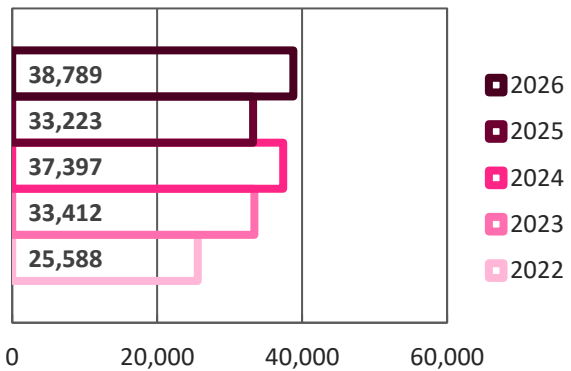
**Visitors FYTD**



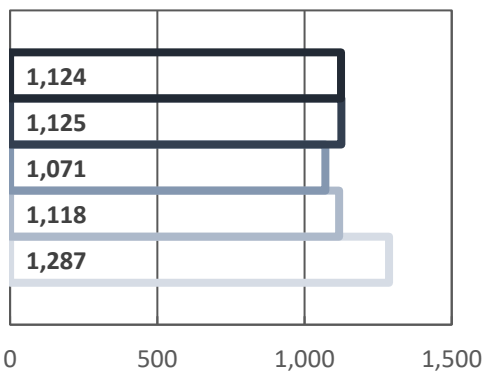
**Computer Hours FYTD**



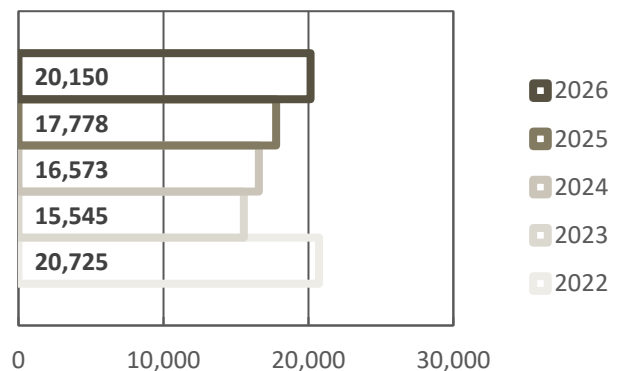
**Wi-Fi Sessions FYTD**



**Group Programs FYTD**



**Program Attendance FYTD**



PATRON STORIES

*POSING WITH A PAINTING*

Michelle, a longtime Lyell Branch patron, is pictured with members of the Fiber Arts Club in front of her painting, which is currently on display in the library.



*LEGO CLUB, LEVELED UP*

An 8-year-old patron recently shared feedback with Arnett Library Clerk Ceola Bacot about the branch’s Lego Club, describing the program as “cool” and expressing interest in attending more frequently. He noted that he enjoys browsing books during the program and values the space and materials available, which allow him to “create giant things.” Bacot shared this feedback with Branch Manager Ginger Brewer, and in response, the Arnett Branch will expand Lego Club from once a month to twice a month beginning in April.

*THE BENEFIT OF BOOKS FELT AT THE WINTON BRANCH LIBRARY*

At the Winton Branch, a recently returned parenting book included a handwritten note from a patron. The note read: *“I’m sorry I kept this book for so long. I’ve been really depressed. The book helped. Thank you.”* Staff were moved by the message and responded with care, sending a follow-up email to reassure the patron that no fines had been applied and to express their hope that they were doing well. Moments like this reflect the broader impact of library services. While staff cannot always anticipate which materials will resonate with individual readers, this experience highlights the meaningful role the collection can play in people’s lives. The library’s fine-free policy also serves as a small but important way to reduce barriers and extend compassion to patrons during challenging times.

*THE LASTING IMPACT OF A CARING LIBRARIAN*

Winton Branch Manager and Children’s Librarian Kathy Wolf received a message from a parent expressing gratitude for her support of their children’s reading development. It read in part, *“...[I] am so very grateful for your care and tending of James, Owen, and Felix’s development as readers. We are a reading family, and having a local librarian who invests in our kids so intentionally is a huge gift!”*

Kathy responded with a note explaining that working with families like theirs is one of the many privileges and rewards of being a librarian.

*THEY JUST FIT TOGETHER*

At the Frederick Douglass Community Library, after-school hours bring a steady flow of families into the space. While children use computers, participate in crafts, or attend programs, parents often take the opportunity to connect with one another. Many adults have also found a shared interest in working on jigsaw puzzles, returning regularly to continue their progress. Some puzzles are completed in just a few days, while others take months to finish. Regardless of the challenge, participants remain engaged and committed, creating a welcoming and collaborative environment for all.



**LIBRARY AS REFUGE**

An older patron came to the reference desk to tell Art and Literature Librarian Andy Coyle how he used to come to the Rundel Memorial Building every day after school to do his homework and read. He had a hectic home life, so the Central Library was a refuge for him. He said Rundel's main hall was full of tables and packed every day with high school and college students doing homework and patrons doing research and reading. He said he went to college and became a successful businessman in part because of his time spent in the library. He was happy to hear that we still get students coming in to study.

**CYANOTYPE PROGRAM INSPIRES CREATIVITY AND EXPANDS COMMUNITY REACH**

A patron who attended the summer 2025 program *Cyanotypes: A How-To with the Process* recently shared her continued success using the technique, including creating handmade holiday gifts such as kitchen towels and placemats. She credited the program, led by Librarian Assistant Donald Hyatt, with helping her develop these skills.

Her positive experience extended beyond her own participation, as she shared information about the program with friends, resulting in additional registrations for an upcoming instance of the program. This word-of-mouth promotion highlights the program's broader community impact, demonstrating how library offerings can inspire creativity while also attracting new participants through personal connections.

**SPECIAL INITIATIVES**

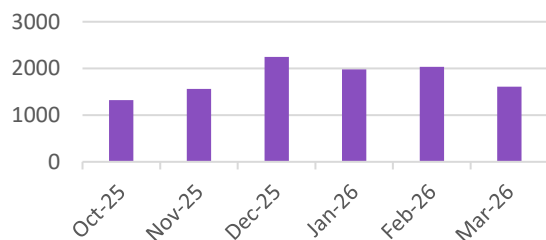
**WIRED FOR OPPORTUNITY (MCLS)**

PROGRAM STATISTICS

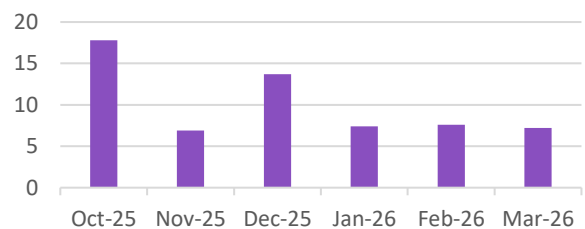
Month	Classes	Attendance	Class Topics	
Jul-2025	25	170	Intro to Computers	Library Resources
Aug-2025	23	146	Applying for Benefits	Intro to Google
Sept-2025	26	175	Computer Catch-Up	Online Job Search
Oct-2025	23	161	Scams and Security	
Nov-2025	35	252		
Dec-2025	21	109		
Jan-2026	27	178		
Feb-2026	35	229		
Mar-2026	50	240		

SOLAR TABLE USAGE

Total Solar Table Connections



Total Solar Table GB Used



### *WIRED FOR SUCCESS*

Staff received a phone call from Cynthia Addell, Community Liaison for Monroe County's Research and Strategy Department. The leadership at the Center for Community Alternatives reached out to her to say how grateful they were for the *Wired for Opportunity* program. A student who was recently released from a corrections facility took the class and is now better prepared to enter the workforce.

### *WIRED FOR OPPORTUNITY, NOW IN TWO LANGUAGES*

The Lincoln Branch & Toy Library hosted a four-week *Wired for Opportunity: Introduction to Computers* class focused on foundational digital skills. For the first time, the course included a Spanish-language interpreter, significantly expanding access for Spanish-speaking patrons.

The addition was well received, with participants engaging fully in the instruction and taking advantage of the opportunity to learn in their preferred language. The program strengthened digital literacy skills while advancing more equitable access to technology training across the community.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### *CONNECTING COMMUNITY THROUGH CREATIVITY*

The Frederick Douglass Community Library hosted a craft bazaar, offering free table space to local vendors. The event was well received, with just the right number of participants to comfortably fill the space. Programs like this provide meaningful support to the community. Vendors benefit from opportunities to connect and network, while patrons enjoy discovering unique, handmade items during their visit. The event also helped raise awareness of library services, attracting new visitors to the branch.



### *FIRST LADY, FIRST CHAPTER*

Hosted by the Central Library Science Division, Monroe Community College History Professor Mark Sample presented *The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt, Part 1*, the first program in a three-part series. The session explored Roosevelt's early life, education, and accomplishments, as well as her introduction to and marriage with Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The program generated strong audience engagement, with participants asking numerous questions and offering positive feedback. Attendees expressed enthusiasm for the series and interest in returning for the next installment.

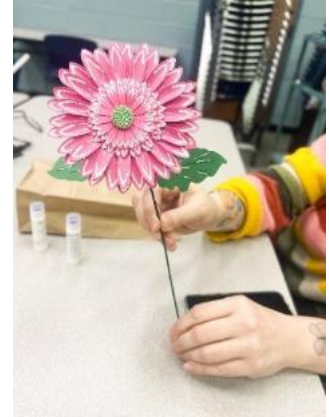
### *SOOTHING SOUNDS AT CHARLOTTE*

The Charlotte Branch recently hosted a sound bath led by Dr. Sandra Boysen Sluberski. The event attracted a large crowd, including many visitors from outside the Charlotte neighborhood. Participants of all ages lay out their mats and settled into the meeting room for a calming, immersive experience. The response was very positive, with several people asking if the program could be offered again. Many attendees also took time afterward to explore the library, sharing how much they enjoyed the space and expressing interest in returning.



### *CREATIVITY IN BLOOM AT THE LIBRARY*

At the Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Deaney of Deaney Weaney Blooms led a hands-on workshop teaching patrons how to create paper Gerbera daisies. The program attracted a diverse group of participants and offered an engaging, creative experience. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with attendees sharing how much they enjoyed the session and expressing pride in their finished projects—each leaving with a handcrafted paper flower.



### *A CELEBRATION OF IRISH DANCE AND CULTURE*

Phillis Wheatley Community Library hosted ROCeltic, a contemporary Irish dance group, for a live performance. The event drew an audience of 40, representing a wide range of ages from young children to older adults. The performance was both engaging and educational, showcasing traditional Irish dance alongside contemporary and fusion styles. Attendees experienced a dynamic presentation that highlighted the evolution of this art form while celebrating its cultural roots.

The Winton Branch Library hosted a performance by the Goodwin Academy of Irish Dance, featuring dancers ages 5 to 18. The event drew 137 attendees and showcased Irish heritage through music and movement. In addition to the lively performances, a small moment of care stood out. When a young dancer became overwhelmed and froze on stage, the instructor responded with quiet encouragement and, when needed, joined the dancer to finish the routine together. The moment reflected both the supportive environment of the group and the confidence-building power of the arts.



### *PING PONG WITH PURPOSE*

In response to growing interest in structured play, Teen Central has launched a weekly Table Tennis Club to teach teens the fundamentals of the game using competition rules. Building on the game's popularity in the Teen Space, the program provides participants with opportunities to develop skills in a more intentional and engaging setting.

Table tennis supports hand-eye coordination, cognitive development, and quick decision-making through fast-paced, strategic play. The club also fosters positive social connections and character development, with the long-term goal of forming a team that can participate in tournaments and represent the library in competitive settings.



### *EARLY LITERACY VISITS STRENGTHEN SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS AND LIBRARY ENGAGEMENT*

Monroe Branch Children's Librarian Kassady Lewis coordinated and hosted a visit for a pre-K class from Francis Parker School No. 23. Fifteen students, accompanied by seven teachers and chaperones, participated in a spring-themed program that included story time, games, and a snack. The visit introduced young learners to

the library in an engaging and welcoming environment while supporting library card sign-ups. Despite a delayed bus, the group ended their visit on a joyful note by gathering to sing songs together while they waited. At the Sully Branch, several preschool classrooms from the adjacent Dr. Iris J. Banister School No. 33 have begun attending weekly Thursday morning story times. These recurring visits provide consistent early exposure to the library through stories, songs, and group activities. The partnership supports early literacy development and helps students become familiar and comfortable with the library environment.



## OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIPS

### *PUP-UP LIBRARY*

During a recent outreach visit to Charlotte Harbortown Homes, an affordable housing community for adults 55 and older on Lake Avenue, the RPL GO! team created a pop-up library experience in the community room. Residents had the opportunity to sign up for library cards, browse a curated collection, and borrow materials, bringing library services directly to the community.

The visit also included a memorable introduction to one of the community's newest residents, a six-week-old Shar Pei/Bulldog puppy, adding to the welcoming atmosphere. Charlotte Harbortown Homes receives monthly outreach service from the RPL GO! team, supporting ongoing access to library resources and engagement opportunities.



### *THE WORD IS OUT: ARNETT IS SUPER COOL*

Arnett Library continues its longstanding partnership with Dr. David and Ruth B. Anderson School No. 16, supporting ongoing collaboration through shared community engagement. As part of this relationship, School No. 16 recently hosted a *Project Fair*, transforming student work into a museum-style exhibit of art and learning open to peers, families, teachers, and community members.

Library Clerk Colleen Murray represented Rochester Public Library at the event with an outreach table featuring books, library card applications, bookmarks, program information, and interactive activities. The table generated steady interest, with children and parents inquiring about upcoming concerts and programs. One young attendee, already familiar with the library, described it as *"super cool!"*

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH PRESENTATION

Back in February, Librarian Antoine McDonald provided a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the Archive of Black History and Culture at the Baber AME Church for their Historical Project. In celebration of Black History Month, McDonald was invited to present about the functions of the archive by Regina Grice, President of the Thomas Davis Lay Organization of the Baber AME Church. McDonald informed the congregation of the resources available in the Local History division for general research and genealogy and provided details about the various special collection materials.

### FOLIOS AND FRIENDS

In February, a patron visited the Arts & Literature reference desk requesting access to a folio held in the stacks. During the conversation, the patron shared that they are a member of the Print Club of Rochester, which has previously partnered with other libraries for events and curated viewings of books and prints.

This exchange led to a collaboration with the Print Club of Rochester for a small viewing of selected folios from the stacks and other rare books held in the collection. The group expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to engage directly with the materials. The items selected for viewing highlighted the breadth of historical prints and books within the Arts & Literature Division collection and generated active discussion among participants.



Librarian Assistant Donald Hyatt hopes this program may develop into a recurring opportunity to showcase the depth and richness of the Arts Division's holdings to community groups and patrons.

### FINGER LAKES BUSINESS SERVICES

Jennifer Byrnes presented at the Finger Lakes Regional Business Services Team Meeting held at the Department of Labor. She received this email from meeting coordinator Jason Kirchoff: *"Thank you again for your presentation. I spoke with several people after the meeting, and they were very impressed with your programs."*

### THE SNACK BAR

Historical Researcher Emily Morry fielded a question from a patron seeking information about a restaurant called the Snack Bar that was once located where the Bausch + Lomb Library building now stands. The patron indicated that the restaurant holds a special meaning to her family because it was where her parents first met in the 1970s. Morry sent the patron multiple articles on the restaurant and a couple of images (from the library's collection) of the building in which the restaurant was housed, the former Downtowner Motor Inn. The patron responded, *"This is better than I could have asked for. Thank you so much for your help and for getting this to me so quickly! I'm working on an 80th birthday present for my dad and including some of these details will be very meaningful - I hope! :)"*



rpc1363a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

### *TAX HELP TUESDAYS (WELL, WEDNESDAYS) FILL THE CALENDAR*

The Central Library's Science, History, & Social Sciences Division continues to host the New York State Taxpayer Assistance Program, which began on Wednesday, February 4 and runs weekly through April 15 for the tax season. Demand has been strong, with all appointment slots fully booked throughout March.

A returning patron shared appreciation for the program and noted that libraries are valuable community resources because they offer a wide range of services, including tax assistance and access to unique items such as sewing machines.

### *TORA-CON 2026*

Central Library's Science, History, & Social Sciences Division Librarian Michael Callari served on a panel at Tora-Con 2026, a convention celebrating anime, cosplay, and nerd culture hosted by the Rochester Institute of Technology. The Monroe County Library System is a major sponsor of the event.

The panel explored the translation and adaptation of Japanese pop culture into English over time, using Godzilla, Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind, Sailor Moon, and One Piece as case studies. Callari contributed analysis of English voice actors and edited video segments for the presentation using DaVinci Resolve.

The session drew approximately 45 attendees and was well received.



## COLLECTION UPDATES

### *BRINGING POPULAR ITEMS FRONT AND CENTER*

At the Lyell Branch, Urban Fiction remains one of the most in-demand areas of the collection. While this interest is not fully reflected in circulation data, staff regularly receive more patron requests and inquiries for Urban Fiction than for any other genre. In response, Lyell staff relocated the collection and installed new shelving to better highlight these materials. Now prominently positioned near the entrance, the display improves visibility and access, making it easier for patrons to find and engage with a highly requested part of the collection.

### *INSPIRED BY CHAMPIONS*

Inspired by the achievements of athletes at the 2026 Winter Olympics, the Lincoln Branch created a Women's History Month book display highlighting women in sports. The Games marked a significant moment for gender equity, with one of the highest levels of women's participation in Winter Olympics history. The display showcased stories of trailblazing athletes and the evolving role of women in sports, connecting current events with the library's collection and offering patrons an opportunity to explore and celebrate these contributions.



## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

### *SIMPLIFYING THE SEARCH*

At the Frederick Douglass Community Library, Library Pages **Bridget Toth** and **Andrea Reithmayr** work collaboratively to develop engaging book displays throughout the branch. Each month, they research timely and relevant themes, create signage, and curate materials to highlight a range of topics. Patrons have taken notice of this thoughtful approach and frequently express their appreciation. The displays are especially helpful for busy parents, who value the ease of finding seasonal, timely, and culturally relevant materials in one place.



### *COMPASSION IN ACTION*

At the Arnett Branch, Library Assistant **Kate Peck** showed exceptional care and compassion while helping a young woman in distress. The woman arrived visibly upset, stating that she had left a domestic situation and was awaiting emergency assistance. Kate immediately stepped in to support her. She offered food and water, contacted local agencies for housing options and referrals, and stayed calm and reassured throughout. Even after the individual's immediate needs were met, Kate continued to engage with her, making sure she felt supported and cared for. Kate's actions demonstrate the library's role as a safe and welcoming space, as well as the staff's dedication to serving the community with empathy, respect, and meaningful help.

### *NEW STRUCTURE, SAME STAFF COMMITMENT*

March presented a challenging period for the newly formed RMC/Technology Center as staff continued to adjust following retirements and other staffing changes. Despite these transitions, the RMC team effectively filled service gaps and addressed operational needs as they arose, ensuring continuity of service during a high-demand period. **Cynthia Bowman, Gil Diaz, Alan Gilfoy, Mary Hagg, Stephanie Lane, John Parungao, Sarah Werner, and Barb Wilson** all contributed to supporting a smooth transition.

Their efforts were particularly valuable during the peak of tax season, which typically requires significant one-on-one assistance for patrons navigating systems such as ID.me and Login.gov. With staff absences and seasonal demand adding additional pressure, the Technology Center faced a particularly busy and complex workload, drawing the bulk of Supervisor Jay Osborne's time and attention.

Through strong collaboration and adaptability, staff across units worked together to maintain service levels and support patrons effectively, demonstrating resilience and a commitment to problem-solving during a demanding operational period.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

### *EQUIPPING STAFF FOR IMPACTFUL SERVICE*

Charlotte Library Branch Manager Cathy Kyle served on the planning committee for and participated in a day-long Adult Services Conference. This was the first conference specifically organized for Adult Services staff and programmers, offering a focused opportunity for professional development and collaboration. The program included a variety of sessions, such as a diversity panel, a craft programming discussion, an overview of MCLS, and a civil service panel. The event ended with a presentation from the Gandhi Institute on anger and strategies for expressing it in healthy, constructive ways.

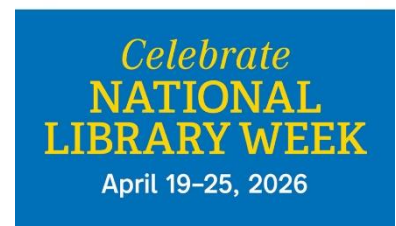
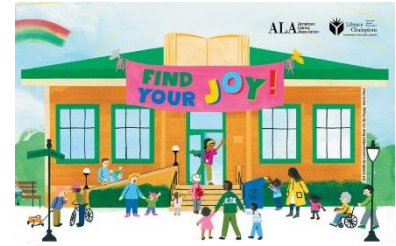
Arnett Librarian Stephanie Knapp attended a live question-and-answer session led by Ryan Dowd, focused on working effectively with patrons who may be experiencing homelessness, substance use challenges, or mental health concerns. After the training, Knapp reported feeling more confident in her approach to supporting individuals who may exhibit challenging behaviors and in her interactions with the broader public.

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S CORNER: EMILY CLASPER

### TRUSTEE CALL TO ACTION

Celebrate [National Library Week](#) April 19-25! [#NationalLibraryWeek](#)

- Monday, April 20: Right to Read Day- [#RightToReadDay](#)
- Tuesday, April 21: National Library Workers Day- [#NLWD26](#)
- Wednesday, April 22: National Library Outreach Day- [#LibraryOutreachDay](#)
- Thursday, April 23: Tacke Action for Libraries Day- [#ForOurLibraries](#)



### RPL IN THE NEWS

[News 10: New state policy helps Rochester libraries tackle book ban attempts and AI content](#)

### RECOMMENDED READING

[I Love Libraries: U.S. Book Challenges Update: March 2026 Edition](#)

[Texas Library Association: Beyond the Books: How Texas Libraries Are Driving Workforce Development](#)

[American Libraries: Encountering ICE: Public library directors share tips for dealing with federal immigration activity](#)

[American Library Association: White House FY27 budget proposal repeats threats to eliminate IMLS](#)

### IMPORTANT DATES

**April 19–25:** [National Library Week](#)

**April 24, 8:00–10:00:** [MCLS Legislative Breakfast](#), Central Library

**April 24, 1:00:** [Screening of \*The Librarians\*](#), Central Library

**May 21, 5:30–7:00:** [Director's Choice Book Discussion: \*The Correspondent\* by Virginia Evans](#) [REGISTER](#)

**May 27, 9:00:** [RPL Board Meeting](#) at Central Library

### UPCOMING LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

[Find Upcoming Library Programming Here](#)

### DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

March was a productive and full month, with a strong focus on staff support, planning for major initiatives, and continued progress on key system projects. We balanced immediate operational needs with longer-term strategic work, while also maintaining important external partnerships and advocacy efforts.

In response to current events and staff concerns, we hosted refresher training sessions on ICE operations in public libraries in partnership with the Rochester Legal Aid Society. This was followed by more specific guidance at our March All Staff meeting outlining expectations for RPL staff as City employees, based on directions from Corporation Counsel and the Mayor's Office. While this is understandably a difficult topic, staff appreciated the openness of these conversations and the effort to support both staff and patrons.

As we look ahead to the eventual wind-down of the Wired for Opportunity program, we've been working closely with project staff to map out the final stages. This includes documenting processes, transitioning appropriate elements into regular operations, wrapping up time-limited activities, transferring responsibility for the solar tables, and ensuring all billing and reporting is completed in coordination with the County. Taking the time to plan this now should help ensure a smooth closure and allow us to shift our focus to new initiatives later in the year.

I also had the opportunity to spend a morning at Pittsford Public Library leading project management training. It was especially rewarding to reconnect with that kind of hands-on professional development work and to share practical tools that can help make projects run more smoothly. It was also great to get to know the Pittsford staff a little better. They are truly a fun and committed bunch!

That same day, Assemblymember Sarah Clark joined us for a "sneak preview" tour of the Maplewood Library renovation. It was a wonderful opportunity to talk about the origins of the project, thank her for her continued support, and see firsthand the progress that's been made. (And yes, we were even convinced to try out the wobble chairs in the teen space!)

Budget development continues to move forward, with ongoing work to align City and County processes. We also partnered with the City's Department of Human Resource Management on our Budget Equity submission, making sure our financial planning clearly reflects our values and includes measurable ways to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion.

On behalf of Monroe County libraries, we met with the County Department of Human Resources and the New York Library Association to talk through ongoing challenges with Civil Service processes. These are not new issues, but they remain significant, and we're encouraged to see them gaining attention as a statewide advocacy priority. We're hopeful that this will lead to more productive conversations, and ultimately improvements, at both the local and state levels.

Work on major system projects continued to move forward, particularly the MCLS Plan of Service and the ILS RFP, both of which are now in intensive drafting phases.

I also began my service on the New York Regents Advisory Committee on Libraries, with initial meetings focused on updates to Minimum Standards for Public Libraries and planning for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

At Central Library, we've started some workflow analysis work aimed at identifying efficiencies, which is something that will be important both as we navigate future budget pressures and as we prepare for a potential ILS transition.

Finally, I continued to spend time on external partnerships, including coordination with Literacy Rochester around digital literacy efforts, collaboration with RRLC on the Ralph Wilson grant for rural libraries, and conversations with the Rochester Museum & Science Center and Writers & Books about potential future partnerships.

*~Emily*

*CENTRAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: SARAH LEHMAN*

**RocPaint**

The Central Library was very happy to work with the RocPaint Division of the City of Rochester to be the site of one of their first public murals for this year. The team did an amazing job of developing an image that spoke to so many individuals in the library and patrons loved being able to watch the project start and finish in real time during library open hours. The RocPaint team hires a group of youth from the city every year to learn the different techniques involved in this type of art and to implement the public art throughout the city. We loved having them here, love the new artwork down in the Technology Center and the Link, and cannot wait to find a new wall for them to paint soon! The RocPaint team and the youth will be back this summer to hold a small celebration of their work and display photos taken by photographer Quajay Donnell.

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**Analyzing Workflows**

Associate Director Jennifer Smathers, Director Emily Clasper, and I began a project to do an in-depth assessment of some of the processes at the Central Library. In March, we began by shadowing staff in the Technical Services and Cataloging Division to get a better understanding of some of the workflows there. As we approach the end of our current contract for an ILS and look at other options from either a new vendor or new options from our current vendor, understanding the way that our team currently uses our system was a timely exercise. I look forward to seeing more of the work done by the team in the future and finding more ways to keep improving the work that we do.

**HeartSafe Initiative**

The Rochester Public Library Management team met with members of the Mayor's team regarding a year-long, county-wide initiative focused on Heart Safety. The program aims to increase awareness throughout the county of measures that can be taken by anyone in the community to increase heart safety. We can provide the mayor's team with valuable data to support their work and develop programming in our libraries to meet this goal as well.

**De-Escalation Techniques with the Ghandi Institute**

Our training for the third Thursday in March was a de-escalation training session given to us by the Ghandi Institute. The training was very well done, and many staff members shared their appreciation of the topics covered afterwards. One of the key differences for this training vs. others that I have experienced was the

audience engagement and depiction of realistic library situations that many of us experience daily. The Ghandi Institute will be back again in April to give another training on Cultural Humility.

### **Opioid Taskforce**

In March, I began attending meetings for the Opioid Taskforce put together by the Mayor's office in Director Emily Clasper's place as she rotates off. We have seen an increase in activity related to drug use and overdoses at the Central Library lately. I look forward to contributing to the work of this taskforce and hope to have an impact on a very significant challenge within our community.

### **English Muffin Tour**

The Rochester Public Library Management team was lucky to get a tour of all the "Nooks and Crannies" of the Rundel building by Facilities staff members Frank Russo and Max Giancursio. While this was a fun adventure for many of us started by our curiosity of off the hidden parts of an old building, it was also very helpful for us to be able to see many of these spaces and get a much better understanding of what is involved with many of the projects and challenges that come up with a building of this age. And while there are many beautiful views of the river around Rundel, I happen to believe you would be hard pressed to find one that beats the view from the top of the Rundel Roof on a sunny day.



*~Sarah*

## **COMMUNITY LIBRARIES DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S UPDATES FROM BJ SCANLON**

### **Branch Staff Days**

This spring, all branch staff days have been successfully scheduled. We are collaborating with Rochester Regional Health, the Rochester Fire Department, and potentially the University of Rochester or AMR to provide AED training and hands-only CPR instruction for our teams during these sessions. BJ Scanlon will report on dates closed and full schedule of activities, but we've been working closely with the City to ensure that CPR and AED training is provided to staff.

### **Health and Safety**

9 branches have been scheduled for comprehensive health and safety walk-throughs (we are waiting on Maplewood until its been open a bit, but Maple did have to pass a Certificate of Occupancy Review). Overall, we are performing well, with a focus on implementing minor but important upgrades. These include ensuring AED machines are equipped with proper pads, confirming that first aid kits are fully stocked with required items, and addressing any additional safety considerations identified during inspections, once we finish this run of inspections, we will move on to conducting fire drills for the branches.

### **Maplewood Branch Library**

The Maplewood Branch Library will reopen to the public on Monday, April 13 following the completion of a 2,600 square foot expansion. The team is excited to welcome patrons back into the improved space. We are also coordinating with the City of Rochester communications team to schedule a grand opening event, including a formal ribbon cutting.

**Advocacy**

Advocacy efforts are in full swing. A small committee of MCLS directors has joined BJ Scanlon, Jennifer Smathers, Sarah Lehman, and Emily Clasper to host a legislative breakfast for the library. This will take place on April 24 in the morning during National Library Week. Board members are encouraged to attend. During this event, we will advocate for libraries on key issues impacting them statewide, as well as specific projects supporting MCLS and RPL.

**National Library Week**

Branches were provided guidance to enhance programming during National Library Week and to utilize the new tag in LibCal to highlight the range of programs taking place across libraries during that time. We will also be working to secure media coverage and news spotlights to further showcase library services and community impact throughout the week.

*~BJ*